

# Religious liberty at stake

By Don McGregor

On July 8, four days after the 207th observation of freedom for our nation, Clarksdale Baptist Church in Clarksdale will be engaged in arguments pertaining to its being allowed to intervene in a court order that has threatened its religious liberty.

The church runs a school which it claims is "an integral and inseparable part of its religious ministry." A federal district court is attempting to tell the church how it should run its school. The church claims this amounts to tampering with its religious freedom. It says that its school is a part of its evangelization process and for the government to tell the church it must recruit students amounts to placing a mandate on the school to evangelize.

Of course, the church is under a mandate to evangelize, but the mandate was established by divine decree, not that of government.

The church says the court's order is a violation of the free exercise of religion rights of the church and a violation of the establishment clause of the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution. This suit has far reaching implications. It must be remembered that only in Mississippi is this sort of action permissible. The U.S. Congress has forbidden the Internal Revenue Service to use federal money to pursue such aims anywhere. But the IRS went to court and got itself sued so that it could be told to do so in Mississippi.

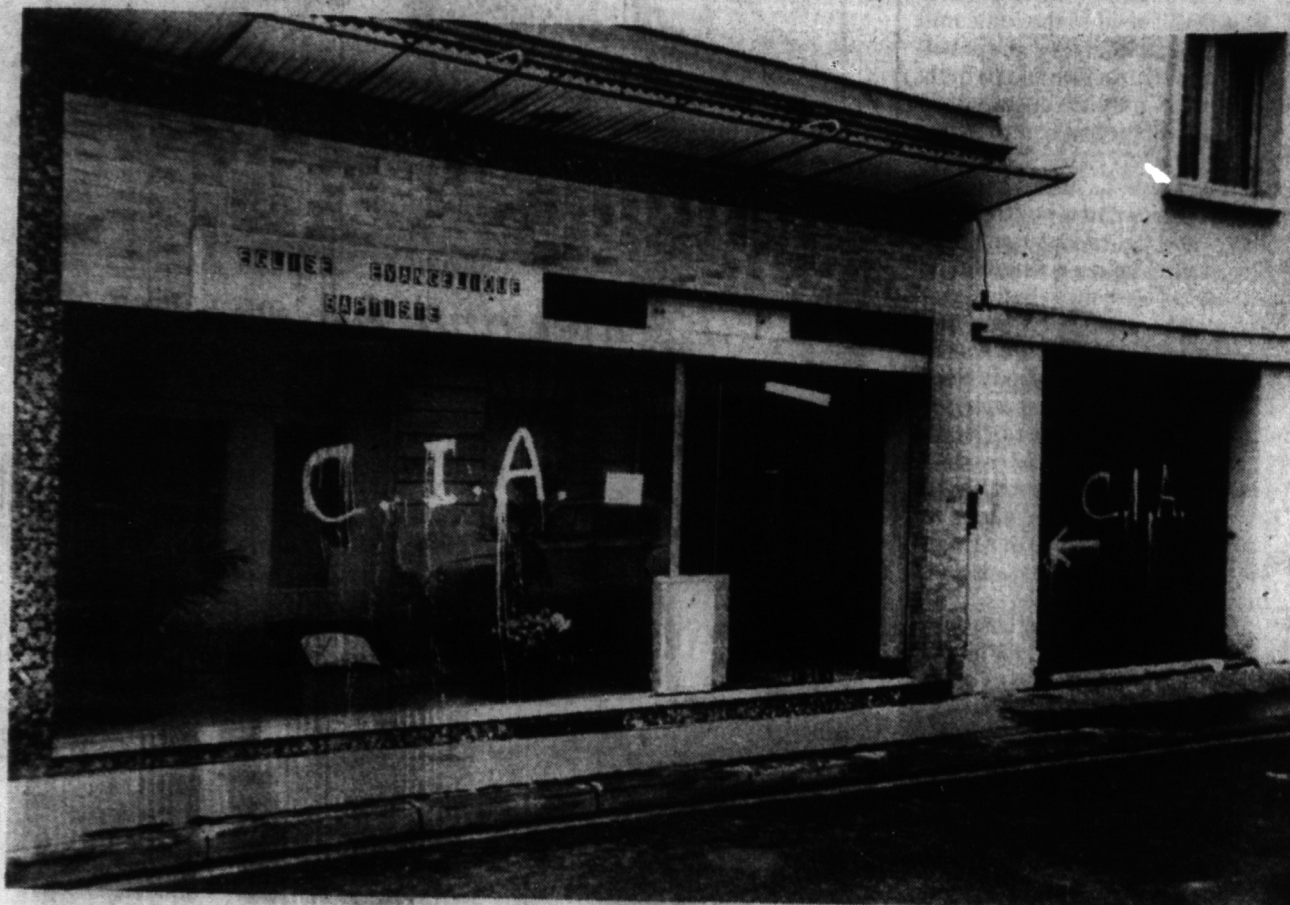
Mississippi has become the whipping boy for the IRS; but more than

that, a church feels its religious liberty is in jeopardy. If it can happen for one church, it can happen for all.

At issue is the point of having black students in the school. The church says that is possible now but that none has chosen to attend. The court is saying, "If you want to retain your tax exemption for your school and church, go get some."

It's not an issue of having minority students, they are there. It's an issue of having black students. They are not there, but the church says they could be if they wanted to be. The church says it does not recruit any students and doesn't want to start.

July 8 will be a pivotal day in U.S. history.



## Vandals hit French Baptists

A French telecast speculating that evangelicals in Central America are used as information sources by the Central Intelligence Agency apparently prompted the most recent vandalism at Bordeaux (France) Baptist Church. The vandals were unaware that the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has taken strong stands through the years against any

attempt to use its missionaries in intelligence gathering. Vandals also have broken the large front window of the church three times during the past year. The adversity has prompted the church's 40 members to become even more active in their witness, according to Southern Baptist missionary pastor Gene Phillips. (BP) PHOTO

## Cooperative Program giving blooms in May—\$9.1 million

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—More money, \$9,115,509, was received by the national Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention in May, 1983 than in any May in history.

"This is only the fourth month in the

58-year history of the Cooperative Program (the SBC's unified giving plan) that gifts have exceeded \$9 million," Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-director of the SBC Executive Committee, said. "And this is the first time Southern Baptists have given at that level in some month other than January."

The monthly total is 17.17 per cent (\$1,215,000) above May, 1982 figures. For the first nine months of the SBC fiscal year, CP contributions are 9.4 percent (more than \$5.8 million) ahead of the same period a year ago.

"When you add the designated gifts to the Cooperative Program gifts, Southern Baptists provided almost \$17.8 million during May to help present the claims of Jesus Christ to our world, both immediately through our mission programs and in the future through our educational efforts," Bennett said.

The more than 36,000 SBC churches send voluntary contributions to the 34

state conventions which, in turn, decide for themselves what to send to the national level. Approximately one-third of the money sent to the states is forwarded to the national SBC.

The \$9 million month also pushed the budget back on target to meet both the basic and the challenge budgets of the SBC. If the present level of giving is sustained, national Cooperative Program receipts would total \$92,717,338.

Designated gifts to national programs are up 6.15 percent over a year ago. After nine months designated gifts totaled \$68,172,000 (\$6.2 million to the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board).

If both CP and designated giving continue at the same rate, the national programs will receive more than \$200,000 million during the present fiscal year. After nine months the combined CP and designated totals are more than \$10 million ahead of last year.

(Bird is BP feature editor.)

## Pentecost Sunday church start reports mounting

By Charlene Shucker

ATLANTA (BP)—Early reports indicate Pentecost Sunday—the new work commitment day for Southern Baptists—will exceed 2,000 churches committed to starting missions in the next 12 months.

William G. Tanner, board president, said "I've talked with pastors on the field and missionaries and church extension workers. I've come to believe we have set a new standard for Southern Baptist mission commitments."

It has been a knotty task gathering information and collating results from numerous churches, associations and state conventions. As of the first week in June, three weeks after the May 22 emphasis, 1,076 new work commitments had been reported to the HMB church extension division.

The goal of Pentecost Sunday was 3,000 new-church commitments. Church extension director Jack

Redford sees the present figure as a positive sign. "That's more churches than Southern Baptists start in a year and more figures are coming in daily," he said.

For the past several years, Southern Baptists have averaged about 435 new churches annually, Redford pointed out. "Already we've more than doubled the number of past years," he added.

The Southern Baptist Convention has set a goal of 50,000 churches by A.D. 2000, an addition of 14,000 churches. At present growth rates, reaching that figure would be impossible.

To encourage SBC churches to begin missions, the church extension division set a goal of 3,000 commitments. The figure is less than 10 percent of the total SBC churches.

(Charlene Shucker writes for the HMB.)

## What's Inside?

Editorials by Don McGregor, Page 2

Let's make it a good Fourth

Faces and Places by Anne McWilliams, Page 2

Ezekiel and Juliana

SBC Week stories, Page 3

Catalog scrap marks place, Page 4

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The

# Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JACKSON MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1983

Volume CVII, Number 22

August 19 in Jackson

## Baptist Men's Rally to feature Leavell

Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans Seminary, will be the featured speaker for the Baptist Men's Rally, Aug. 19, at Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson. The other platform personality during the rally will be

Paul Ott Carruth, a Baptist who is a musician and conservationist.

This annual rally, which is oriented toward informing Baptist men about missions to encourage involvement in missions, is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood department.

The rally is divided into two parts, a banquet, which begins at 5:30 p.m. at the church, and an evening service, which begins at 7 p.m.

Purchase of tickets at \$5 per person is required for the banquet, but there is no cost for attendance at the service following the banquet. Tickets may be purchased through the Brotherhood department at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

The banquet speaker, Paul Ott Carruth, is a member of First Church, Summit and will offer music and humor following the meal. Also on hand during the banquet will be the Antiques, a Jackson-area based blue grass band.

Preceding the inspirational talk by Leavell at the evening service, will be a mini-concert by David Worthington, minister of music at Ridgcrest Church, Jackson. Worthington will also be music leader during the service.



Leavell Carruth

And representatives from the special interest missions groups in Mississippi: the ham operators, the medical-dental fellowship, and agricultural missions, will discuss their approaches to missions.

## No Record next week

The Baptist Record's mailing permit calls for 50 issues per year. Omissions are scheduled during the July 4th holiday and over Christmas. Therefore, there will be no Baptist Record next week. The next issue will be dated July 14.

## WMU honors state churches

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Seventy-two Southern Baptist churches and ten associations in Mississippi were recognized for their achievements during the Woman's Missionary Union National Annual Meeting when it met here June 12-13.

Named as Distinguished Church WMUs were: First Baptist, Amory; First Baptist and Union Baptist, Brandon; Heuck's Retreat Baptist and Macedonia Baptist, Brookhaven; Liberty Baptist, Carrollton; First Baptist and Wildwood Baptist, Clinton; First Baptist, Coffeeville; Coldwater Baptist and Evansville Baptist, Coldwater; Cold Springs Baptist, Collins; First Baptist, Columbia; Antioch Baptist, East End Baptist, First Baptist, and Immanuel Baptist, all of Columbus; First Baptist, Tate Street Baptist, and West Corinth Baptist, Corinth; First Baptist, Crystal Springs; Ecu Baptist, Ecu; and First Baptist, El-lisville.

Enterprise Baptist, Enterprise; First Baptist, Eupora; Calvary Baptist and First Baptist, Greenville; First Baptist, Gulfport; Main Street Baptist, Hattiesburg; Bethel Baptist, Hattiesburg; First Baptist, Holly Springs; First Baptist, Horn Lake; Short Creek Baptist, Iuka; First Baptist and Forest Hills Baptist, Jackson; First Baptist, Highland Baptist, and Wildwood Baptist, Laurel; Bethel Baptist and First Baptist, Louisville; White Oak Baptist, Magee; First Baptist, Marks; East McComb Baptist, McComb; Highland Baptist and Poplar Baptist, Poplarville.

(Continued on page 5)

## Congress works on prayer

WASHINGTON (BP)—Yielding to White House pressure, a Senate Judiciary subcommittee has agreed to send to full committee President Reagan's proposed constitutional amendment on school prayer along with a "silent prayer" version favored by a majority of the subcommittee.

The Subcommittee on the Constitution had been set for more than two weeks to settle the Reagan proposal in favor of one pushed by Chairman Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, allowing "individual or group silent prayer and meditation in public schools" and providing "equal access to the use of public schools by all voluntary (including religious) student groups."

But previous efforts to conclude subcommittee action had stalled in the face of White House insistence on approval of its proposal which would allow state-written oral prayer in public schools. In an effort to resolve the dilemma, Hatch moved to send both proposals to full committee to let that panel "work its will."

Hatch emphasized he would have preferred to send only the "silent prayer" amendment to the Judiciary Committee but deferred to White House wishes because of President Reagan's commitment to the issue.

However, Judiciary Committee Chairman Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., said he had "personally conducted a canvass" of his panel and was convinced the Reagan proposal as introduced "has no chance of being favorably reported."

Thurmond said "sentimental change" and supported the Hatch amendment to send both versions to the full committee.

## Banquet guests from street profess Christ

PITTSBURGH (BP)—What was planned as an ordinary annual banquet for Southern Baptist evangelists turned into a revival session when persons invited off the streets to fill seats professed their faith in Christ.

The conference had guaranteed 700 seats for the banquet and when extra seats went unfilled, several evangelists went into the streets outside the William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh to invite passersby to eat with them.

Rick Scott, pastor of Houston, president of the conference, was scheduled to speak at the banquet, but asked Los Angeles evangelist Arthur Blessitt to take his place. Blessitt is best known for carrying a cross more than 20,000 miles around the world.

At the close of Blessitt's message on the Holy Spirit he asked those at the banquet who did not personally know Jesus Christ and who wanted to be "saved" to raise their hand. After a prayer for those who had done so, everyone prayed and several persons accepted Christ. They included a truck driver from Dallas, a couple from the greater Pittsburgh area and waiters and waitresses serving at the banquet.

## Mr. Sunday School retires after 25 years as director

By Tim Nicholas

At the end of June, Bryant Cummings will complete 25 years as Mississippi's "Mr. Sunday School." That nickname was used in the 1953 Mississippi supplement to Vacation Bible School materials distributed to every Baptist church in the state.

The VBS supplement focuses on Cummings' life and work. He is retiring as director of the Sunday School department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board after 25 years' service in that position. And he makes no bones about his belief in the vitality of the Sunday School.

"I think that the Sunday School has been the genius organization that can be utilized in the total life of the church," said Cummings, in an interview with the Baptist Record. He explains that the Sunday School as a tool is used in "reaching people, baptizing people, constructing buildings, providing an environment for the nurturing of people, teaching them, and disciplining them."

He said he thinks that in many instances the Sunday School does "provide a funnel entrance into the total life of the church."

He notes that though only about 50 percent of any Sunday School enrollment actually attends any given Sunday, "we need to be grateful because every individual is still a volunteer. We can only pray they give more attention and better support to the total life of the church."

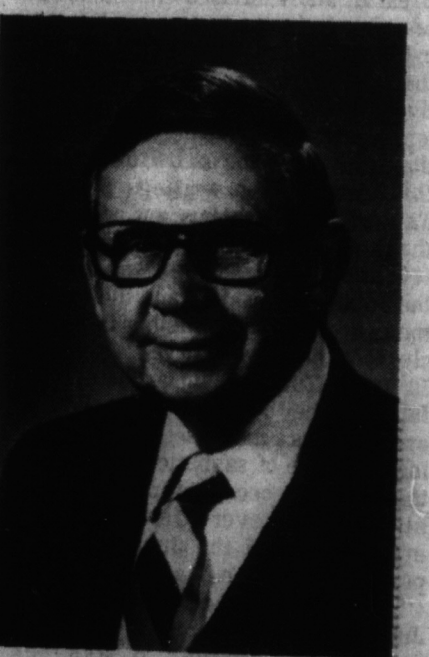
Cummings said that in his 25 years at the MBCB, curriculum has changed. One of the most recent changes has been the addition of the Bible Book Series to Sunday School curriculum. "Anything we get in the way of curriculum (changes), not just the name, color, or package, comes out of the grassroots," said Cummings. Most changes come about through letters where a teacher expresses an opinion or someone questions materials. Cummings said so many people requested a curriculum piece in which they could overview the entire Bible that the Bible Book Series was introduced.

Cummings passes on to the Sunday School Board in Nashville any suggestions he receives from the churches

where he and his staff spend most of their time. "We try to do a maximum job through the state Sunday School office to teach and reach and influence as many Sunday School officers and teachers to point them to better methods and better ways of teaching the Bible to different age groups," said Cummings. He added the staff wants to "make the Scripture applicable and to raise the standard of teaching of boys and girls and men and women."

He said it is still true that getting an unsaved child into the Bible teaching program of the church, which he notes entails more than the Sunday School, will offer the best change of producing a new Christian.

And he said that being in the state office has caused him to miss "the opportunity of seeing people grow and mature in a local church. Cummings was minister of education at First Church, Jackson when he joined the convention board staff in 1959. Right now, he's back there as interim minister of education. "I remember the day when I was minister of education," said Cummings, and first considering a state Baptist job, it would be "over my dead body. I've eaten those words," he admits and adds, "I wouldn't take anything for the experience."



Bryant Cummings

## Evangelistic door knocking pays in Penn.

PITTSBURGH—Thousands of Pennsylvanians in the greater Pittsburgh area felt the impact of more than 600 Southern Baptist volunteers who spent the week prior to the Southern Baptist Convention knocking on doors of Pittsburgh families to tell them about Jesus Christ.

Early reports indicated that 750 professions of faith and 2,000 prospects were gathered.

Coming from churches in such deep South states as Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida, and Texas, men such as Douglas Beggs, Baptist Men's Director of the Brotherhood Commission and enlistment chairman for volunteers, drew out a Southern greeting to unemployed steel workers and high tech white collar suburbanites alike to tell them Jesus loves them and to invite them to a local church.

Combining their efforts with Pennsylvanians, the volunteer witnessing teams focused on church fields of 38 Southern Baptist congregations.

Typical of the revivals and visitation was a three-day period in Monroeville where 31 volunteers made 2,059 visits which resulted in 33 professions of faith. The one-week goal for Monroeville Baptist Church was 2,400 visits. Beggs expected the group to reach 3,500.

Beggs said the religious preference of about half the people his team called on were Catholic. During one day of intense visitation, Beggs said he and his wife, Peggy, knocked on 70 doors, finding only one Baptist family.

Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptists enthusiastically canvassed their own neighborhoods alongside the guest teams of lay people.

Charles Gilmore, a Pittsburgh area resident tried to take a week's vacation to witness all day. When his employer turned him down because of lack of notice, his wife, Liz, put aside the housework for a week and took his place in the visitation ranks.

Among the volunteers were 80 members of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., who were witnessing in the Pittsburgh area for the third consecutive year.







Thursday, June 30, 1983

## Ministers of education

PITTSBURGH — Discipline in ministry dominated discussion here June 12-13 during the 26th annual session of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association (SBREA), meeting in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Spiritualist theologian Richard J. Foster illustrated the theme, and a stream of church staff members and denominational workers amplified that emphasis on a practical level.

Foster, associate professor of theology and writer-in-residence at Friends University, Wichita, Kan., spoke four times, emphasizing ministerial discipline forged through six varieties of fasting; simplified living; and ministry, prayer, and working to accomplish God's work.

"The disciplined person is the person who can do what needs to be done when it needs to be done," Foster said. "This is crucial in all of life, but it is never more crucial than in the life of the spirit."

Ministers do not live disciplined lives because that "would involve a total reorientation of our ministries," he added. "American religion is full of people who seek great things for themselves. We tend to be captivated by the religion of the big deal."

Instead, ministers should follow Jesus' example of focused, self-sacrificing service centered on God

and steeped in personal prayer, he said.

SBREA participants also heard from the presidents of their two mission boards on the next steps in world missions.

Keith Parks of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., told participants that because of their role in church education they can "create a climate for a global perspective" of Christian ministry.

"Stir within us a global awareness or we will wither and die," he urged. The Home Mission Board's William Tanner of Atlanta, Ga., asked the religious educators to begin such awareness by committing themselves to witness and ministry and "lead by example" as they seek to involve their people in missions action.

A quartet of leaders associated with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., presented SBREA members with one challenge and three status reports.

Lloyd Elder, president-elect of the board, called for ministers to "live lives of genuine character and integrity," and to pattern their ministries upon "a vision of high purpose." He also asked for commitment to hard work and teamwork in ministry.

Harry Piland of Houston, Texas and former BSSB Sunday School director, reported that SBC Sunday Schools now are growing because churches are re-

turning to "a biblical emphasis on teaching and evangelism" and experiencing cooperation among boards, agencies, state conventions, associations and churches.

Piland's remarks were amplified by Roy Edgemon of Nashville, director of the board's Church Training department. He said the denomination's emphasis on discipleship has enjoyed encouraging growth recently and claimed Southern Baptists "will never have a greater opportunity to bring people back" to the discipleship program.

BSSB president Grady Cothen of Nashville said, the Southern Baptist Convention is "on the threshold of the greatest opportunity of sharing the truth of God's Word we have ever seen," referring to advances in telecommunications which will strengthen efforts of Bible teaching and discipleship to which Piland and Edgemon referred.

Each segment of the meeting was concluded by remarks from Albert McClellan of Nashville, former program planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee. McClellan continually highlighted the many facets of discipline necessary to minister effectively in modern society.

In addition, testimonies of religious educators and 11 how-to seminars emphasized practical aspects of discipline in ministry.

## Ministers of music

PITTSBURGH—The minister of music's role as worship leader, educator, and creative force shaping Southern Baptists' musical taste was minutely examined during the 27th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at First Baptist Church here.

A generous sprinkling of handbell concerts, choirs, piano preludes, and musical drama spiced the two-day session, which also featured addresses on the minister of music as educator, the challenges facing the bivocational music director, choral techniques, and the use of musical drama in the church.

Conference president Al Washburn, chairman of the division of church music ministries and organ professor at New Orleans Seminary, reflected on

the causes of boredom in Southern Baptist worship services.

Many participants are bored, he said, "because we plan so little time for their involvement in the service."

Among many other responsibilities, "the minister of music is a worship leader," Washburn said, but added he does not believe Southern Baptist ministers of music always assume that responsibility.

The answer to improving worship is better communication between music leaders and their pastors, congregation, church music council, instrumentalists and choir, and God, Washburn said.

Special music included a concert by the handbell choir of First Baptist Church, Starkville, Miss. New conference officers are president, Wes Robertson, supervisor,

youth/adult/general materials development section, church music department, Sunday School Board; president-elect, Harry Cowan, minister of music, First Baptist Church, New Orleans; secretary-treasurer, Mary June Tabor, associate music secretary, Oklahoma Baptist Convention; vice president, denominational division, Charles Sorey, church music department, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; vice president, local church division, Harlan Hall, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Longview, Tex.; vice president, music educators division, Jack H. Coldiron, voice professor, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Members of the executive council include J. M. Wood, minister of music, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

## Campus ministers

By Greg Warner  
PITTSBURGH—Southern Baptist campus ministers tackled the issues of women in ministry, world hunger, and health care delivery in a two-day meeting here.

But the topic that drew the most vigorous debate was the nature of campus ministry in the future.

Of particular concern to the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers was the relationship between campus workers and National Student Ministries, the Sunday School Board's office that often charts the direction of the denomination's ministries to students.

Charles H. Johnson, secretary for NSM, addressed the group for the first time since his appointment to that post last year. He outlined eight priorities that will define NSM's future work on campuses.

The list called for a broader definition of campus ministry and new role models for local churches ministering on campus. But several student workers warned of an increased fragmentation of Baptist witness on campus, because of campus ministers, local churches, and even denominational agencies vying for the attention of students.

Johnson assured the group he would redouble his efforts to produce cooperation between campus voices.

He said the work of National Student Ministries would come under the umbrella of Bold Mission Thrust, with a broad plan of reaching people, developing believers, and strengthening missions. Some campus workers said such an emphasis would treat campus

groups as churches rather than mission points.

"There seems to be a subtle shift in the convention not to meet the needs of students but to get the students to meet the needs of the denomination," said Bill Stroup, a campus minister in Jacksonville, Fla.

Johnson said the new emphases would not bring an end to any of the traditional areas of campus concern. "This new ripple does not create a power play," he said the campus ministers would have more opportunities to share their concerns with the NSM staff.

Sarah Frances Anders, professor and chairperson of the department of sociology at Louisiana College, Pineville, told the group that Southern Baptist women looking for a role model for ministry won't likely find it in their churches. They may find it on the college campuses, however.

Anders said society will continue to reassess the roles of women, but the inspiration for those changes is not coming from the business world, the family, or the churches.

"The inspiration is coming from where you work; it is coming from the colleges."

While some progress toward equity and equality for women has been made in the workplace, most of that progress is at the low end of the economic scale, she said. One-third of the bus drivers and assembly line workers in the United States are women, but women fill only six percent of the top corporate management positions.

The situation is little better in denominational work, Anders said.

While half of Southern Baptists are women, they account for only 10 percent of the church staff members. Although 18 percent of seminary students are women, they make up less than half a percent of Southern Baptist ordained ministers.

Christians have "lagged woefully behind" the rest of society in providing adequate role models for women, she said.

William M. Pinson Jr., executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, led Bible study for the meeting and addressed the group at a banquet.

Pinson discussed their importance of Christian character and servanthood in the life of campus ministers. But even those objectives serve a greater goal—preparation for ministry.

He said campus ministers have a unique opportunity to be role models as churchmen and as individuals.

"You are catching these lives at the most moldable point other than childhood, when they are taking life apart and putting it back together again."

The campus ministers elected a slate of officers by acclamation. They are Fred Witty, Johnson City, Tenn., re-elected president; John Tadlock, Clemson, S.C., president-elect; Robert Waddall, Towson, Md., re-elected vice president for administration; Ircel Harrison, Jefferson City, Tenn., re-elected vice president of publications; Raye Nell Dyer, Fayetteville, Ark., vice president of membership; and Jerry Cain, Liberty, Mo., vice president for program.

Greg Warner is on the staff of the Radio and Television Commission.



Frank and Sandra Gunn visit with Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Miller. Gunn is pastor of First Church, Biloxi; Miller is pastor of First Church, Joelton, Tenn. He formerly was pastor of First Church, Carthage.



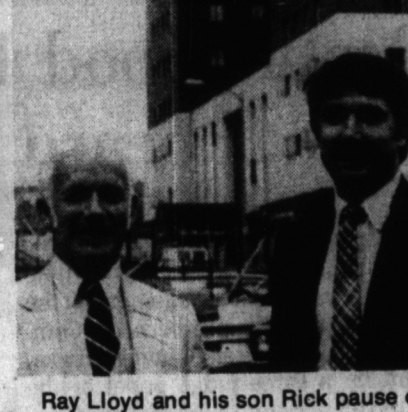
Delton Beall and Jackie Kaye visit in the booths during SBC sessions in Pittsburgh. Beall is pastor of First Church, Lyman and Kaye is pastor of Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport.



Lee and Kay Castle pause in the civic arena where the SBC held sessions in Pittsburgh. Castle is pastor of Slayden Church, Slayden.



Mr. and Mrs. Wade Allen pose in front of the Hyatt fountain in Pittsburgh. Allen is director of missions for Pontotoc Association.



Ray Lloyd and his son Rick pause on the hill outside the arena where the SBC held meetings. The elder Lloyd is pastor of First Church, Starkville and the younger Lloyd just completed studies at Southern Seminary.

## Evangelists suspend bylaw

PITTSBURGH—Members of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists re-elected their president and voted to suspend their Wednesday afternoon session beginning in 1984 while checking the possibilities of merging with the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Business was quieter this year in the shadow of a bitter battle that threatened to divide the 300-member conference last year in New Orleans. The controversy grew out of the issue of who should control the conference. In response, the conference ratified a new slate of bylaws transferring major responsibilities from the conference's executive director to its elected officers.

However, members this year voted to suspend the bylaw requiring the president to only serve one term, and re-elected Rick Scarborough, an evangelist from Houston, Texas, as president.

The action to merge with the Pastors' Conference came after Scarborough spoke of the "spirit of misunderstanding" in which the conference has been operating.

"I've done all that I can to bring our conference together over the past year. I have done a great deal of traveling and know there is a great deal of misunderstanding out there."

He went on to say that until the issue is resolved, both physically and spiritually, the evangelists conference "is a joke."

"My conviction is that our afternoon session has outlived its usefulness."

Other officers elected for 1983-84 were Mike Gilchrist, Shreveport La., vice president; Larry Taylor, San Antonio, Texas, secretary-treasurer; Melvin Wise, Atlanta, Ga., parliamentarian; Pat Roper, Greenville, S.C., music director; Jackson Cox, Milledgeville, Ga., assistant music director; and Richard Vaughan, pastor, Fletcher Emmanuel Baptist Church, Lumberton, Texas, pastor-advisor.

## Sunday School meets have openings

The first three sessions of the Sunday School Leadership Conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, have openings for participants. Dates are July 25-27; July 28-30; and Aug. 1-3. James Richardson, pastor of First Church, Madison, will be study leader at the first two; and J. Roy McComb, pastor of First Church, Columbia, will be study leader for the third.

For reservations, write Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571. For program information, write the Sunday School department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

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Gerald Harris and Bill Davidson meet Rodney Webb, of the language missions staff of the Home Mission Board. Harris is pastor and Davidson is minister of education at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. Webb is a former staffer in the Cooperative Missions department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Earl Craig concentrates on a messenger's problem while serving on the SBC credentials committee. Craig is pastor of Jackson's First Baptist Church.

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**Crestview Crittenton Maternity Services** is seeking applicants for foster family care of pregnant teenagers in the central Mississippi area. For more information call Mrs. Burke at 362-1536.



## Catalog scrap marks place where people were won to Lord

By Bob Stanley  
PITTSBURGH—A Baptist women's leader challenged more than 200 persons attending a national prayer conference to pray for unity in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the convention-wide Women's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., told Baptist women's leaders from throughout the country that no hierar-

chy binds almost 14 million Southern Baptists together.

"We have unity in diversity," she said, "and we're grateful for the things that make us different. But we're even more grateful for the fact that these differences all put together make us equipped to do what God wants us to do."

"We cannot be sidetracked by meaningless controversies and by meaningless misunderstandings with each other," she added.

Participants in the prayer conference, who came to Pittsburgh a day before the SBC heard a variety of speakers ranging from a homespun literacy missionary to the auxiliary's national president, who is a professional psychological counselor and educator.

Helen Jean Parks of Richmond, Va., author of *Holding the Ropes*, a new book on intercessory prayer, led four prayer times on behalf of the denomination's work both in the United States and abroad. Participants also prayed by twos for special concerns voiced by other leaders.

Mrs. Parks, wife of Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, said the secret of living the Christian life lies in complete dependence upon the Lord.

If Christians are to be all that God wants them to be, she said, they must realize they cannot accomplish tasks

by themselves but only as they allow Jesus Christ to do that work through them.

Lillian Isaacs of Tallahassee, Fla., a Home Mission Board literacy missionary, told how a man in eastern Kentucky won more than 1,700 persons to faith in Christ after he began taking literacy lessons and was called to preach.

For two years, he used only one text, John 3:16, which he had memorized and marked in his Bible with a scrap of the Sears & Roebuck catalog, Isaacs said.

"God saved over 200 people with me preaching it," Isaacs said the Kentucky man told her. "But now that I can read anywhere in the Bible, God sure smiles on that—for over 1,500 people have been saved."

WMU president Dorothy E. Sample of Flint, Mich., noted that the conference participants, a number of whom were from the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptist Convention, had been challenged to really pray, to give and pray for faith to give more, and to get involved personally.

Southern Baptists, she said, must not only reach out into the whole world but also be able to "see the need around us to be lifestyle missionaries in the new work areas right where we are."

(Stanley is news director for the FMB.)

## Brotherhood lawsuit appeal heard by court

CINCINNATI (BP)—An appeal of a lower court decision in a \$3 million sexual harassment lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has been taken under advisement by a three-judge panel of the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

A decision on the appeal is not expected for at least several months.

Barbara (Mrs. Robert) Minor, 45, a former secretary at the Memphis, Tenn.-based Brotherhood Commission, appealed a June 18, 1982, decision by federal district judge Odell Horton of Memphis that "a complete and binding settlement agreement has been negotiated among the parties in this case."

The appeal, filed by Mrs. Minor's Memphis attorney, Hite McLean, does not deal with the merits of the case, but only on whether a legitimate settlement was reached.

Mrs. Minor, a nine-year employee of the commission, filed suit April 9, 1981, against the commission, three of its executives, and the Southern Baptist Convention, charging sexual harassment and defamation of reputation.

Named as defendants were James H. Smith, commission executive director; Norman Godfrey, associate

executive director, and David Haney, director of the Baptist Men's division who since has left the commission.

In his ruling, Horton ordered that a settlement reached Aug. 4, 1981, be enforced. Mrs. Minor, however, contended that settlement had not been reached, although she admitted she signed a letter setting out terms of a settlement negotiated by her then attorney, Lillian Dykes, and Ernest G. Kelly Jr., the commission's attorney.

Kelly argued the case before the three-judge federal appeals panel on behalf of the defendants. R. Kreis White, a partner in the Nashville firm of Guenther, White and Jordan, appeared on behalf of the SBC, noting that on the settlement issue, the position of the Brotherhood Commission and the SBC is the same.

James P. Guenther added the SBC has "from the very first, taken the position it should not be party to this suit."

## Mississippi Partnership

## Argentina preaching trip gets results

The following reports are from participants in a series of evangelistic crusades in the West Buenos Aires Province of Argentina. A total of 14 Mississippians took the trip April 8-20.

### "All worth it"

By Toby Walker  
How do you tell people about what really took place as 11 pastors, two wives of these pastors, and one layman visited in Argentina from Mississippi. You would have to tell of so many individual stories that it would be a book rather than a report.

It all started with the invitation in a Mississippi-Argentina partnership meeting. The invitation was made for October of 1982, but then came the war that nobody expected, and the revival was placed on the back burner. Then it was renewed to take place in September of 1983; but, due to a mix-up, the team was to come in April, the week after the Easter weekend of 1983.

This for the churches of West Zone Buenos Aires was the worst time in the year. The churches had just had a revival on Easter weekend and the pastors felt that the people would not come back for another revival, especially for a revival that would be over six days in length.

Everyone knows that in Buenos Aires it is of no use to have anything on the week nights because people will not come due to their work. But if the team could not come any other time, the churches would do their best.

Plans were made, and the date for the team to arrive began to draw close. We then received a letter saying that the team would not be arriving until Saturday instead of Friday. The churches said this would not be good at all because this would not allow them to have even one week-end for a revival. After a telephone call, the arrival time was worked out; and the team arrived on the Thursday before the revival was to begin on Friday night.

As we waited at the airport with the Argentina pastors, it was very tense. The pastors were nervous and worried. Who were these people? What

## SBC annual sermon First orthodoxy test

PITTSBURGH—Southern Baptists' love for one another must come before "orthodoxy of belief," Texas pastor James L. Pleitz told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, said during the annual convention sermon he fears Southern Baptists have forgotten the most important biblical imperative—Jesus' commandment "to love one another as I have loved you."

True orthodoxy, Pleitz said, "must first have an orthodoxy of spirit—which is love—before it can truly have an orthodoxy of belief. The first test of our orthodoxy is in reality a test of love."

Pleitz explained that he had "some real misgivings" that Southern Baptists, marked by controversy in recent years over scriptural authority and control of denominational institutions, are "departing from our orthodoxy."

"I don't think by this that we don't believe the Bible to be the word of God. I honestly don't know

a preacher that does not believe that every single word of the Bible is the word of God."

"But I'm concerned that we've forgotten about a new commandment . . . that you love one another as I have loved you."

Pleitz said Baptists must "remember that love is not an option but rather an imperative—a command of our Lord!"

For Southern Baptists to obey that commandment, Pleitz said, they must love one another with a love that is forgiving, affirming, patient and sacrificial.

Pleitz reminded messengers, many of them pastors, that their real problem with patience is not at church, but in the home, saying, "at the church house, you know you've got to be patient. You may be boiling on the inside but on the outside, you look like everything's just fine."

Pleitz called it "tragic" when patience isn't practiced at home.

"I say that the place we ought to practice the kind of patience that I believe is a part of the kind of love Jesus has for us" is "at home."

## Fields, Lucenay, Cutrell are new lesson writers

Writers of the Sunday School lesson commentaries for the Baptist Record have changed this week. The three who will be writing

July - December, 1983, are Larry W. Fields, pastor, Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, Life and Work; Harry L. Lucenay, pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Bible

Book; and Clarence H. Cutrell, Jackson, now retired, formerly consultant with the Stewardship department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Uniform.

Larry W. Fields was born in Alexandria, La. He is a graduate of Louisiana College and New Orleans Seminary.

His other pastorates have included several in Louisiana and First Baptist, Summit, Miss. His wife is the former Sandra Walker of Natchez.

Harry L. Lucenay is a native of Waco, Tex. He has a B.A. degree from Baylor University and Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from New Orleans Seminary. While in college he was a summer missionary to Hawaii. Also he has undertaken short-term volunteer mission projects in Honduras, Arizona, Colorado, Dominica, Mexico, and Argentina. His wife is the former Nancy Jocele Holland.

Clarence H. Cutrell was born in Pine Bluff, Ark. He was graduated from Ouachita Baptist College and did six quarters of study at New Orleans Seminary. He served pastorates in Arkansas, and then at First, Calhoun City; Trinity, Biloxi; and First, Eupora, Miss. In 1964, he became director of missions for Grenada-Yalobusha counties, and in 1964 moved to Rankin County to become director of missions there. From 1967 until his retirement in 1979 he was a consultant for the Stewardship department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Mrs. Cutrell is the former Willa Schults.

## Guatemala, Miskito Indian plight noted

ORANGE, Calif. (EP)—The plight of Guatemalan Indians and Miskito Indians was reported by Tom Claus, a Mohawk evangelist and head of CHIEF (Christian Hope to Indian Eskimo Fellowship) after a fact finding trip to Guatemala and Honduras.

Claus said that Guatemalan Indians are in a better situation since President Rios Montt came to power in 1982, and that "a wide section of life for the Indians is returning to normal," after guerrillas had taken over their village.

However, Claus reported that a thousand Miskitos fled Nicaragua in just one week because of a "new wave of terror from the Sandinista government there."

The Miskito Indians, who mainly live along the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, were first evangelized by Moravian missionaries from Europe in the Nineteenth Century. The 125,000 Miskitos have a heritage of evangelical belief. "Partly for that reason, but also because of difference in language and race, the Marxist-dominated Sandinista government considers them a threat to the progress of its social reforms," says Dale Kietzman, head of the Latin American division of Open Doors with Brother Andrew and an acknowledged expert on the American Indian.

"Some twelve months ago, the authorities began relocating the Miskitos from their homeland on the sensitive Honduras border. Some 250 Indian leaders were put in prison, the majority of them church leaders. It appears that hundreds may have been killed when the Sandinista government forcibly moved some 8,500 of the Christian Indians from their villages near the banks of the Rio Coco river."

Kietzman declared that the Miskito Indians are now coming from much further inland than the earlier groups who fled into Honduras. "The situation for the young Mexicans is especially desperate. They have left because they don't feel they will have any chance of a proper education in Nicaragua." He added: "Being labeled as 'counter-revolutionaries' is only the latest in a long history of discrimination against these Indian Christians by their Spanish-speaking countrymen, but it certainly does not shake their Christian faith."

### Correction

A portion of the press run of last week's Baptist Record left out a key word in a quote from Adrian Rogers' sermon during the Pastors' Conference. Speaking of the Bible, Rogers said, "I'm going to keep the faith, and friends; if it's not absolute, it's obsolete." The early press run dropped the word "if" changing the meaning accidentally.

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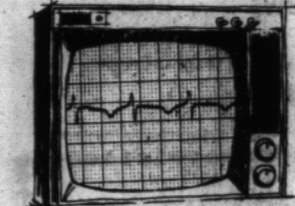
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## Intensive care

Dedicated to strengthening families  
Directed by a team of family life specialists

### Troubled by mother-in-law

My mother-in-law and I have been very close, the dearest of friends and confidants through the years. She is now 86. About a year ago she had a stroke and was in a coma for five days. After long months of treatment and rehabilitation, she has recovered enough to go back to her home. She still has to go regularly for rehabilitation treatments. She now resents any suggestions I make, does not want me to do for her and tells my husband in my presence that I say things to her that have never even entered my mind. If I deny the statements, he will not take up for me in any way. This has shocked and hurt me and has caused me to feel insecure with him.

Is there any way I can restore the relationship my mother-in-law and I had before?

Perplexed

Dear Perplexed:  
According to our medical sources, sometimes people with a serious illness such as you describe have a personality change as a result. They may revert to childish behavior, desiring the attention of a son or daughter and turning against others in the family. Why not just remember the relationship you had with your mother-in-law before her illness, when she was her

real self? Ask your husband to minister to her needs as far as possible. Do your best to do the same cheerfully. Try to have a sense of humor about her imaginary statements or her attempts to put you down. Be careful not to react on an immature level.

Let your husband know how you feel; but assure him of your love for his mother, your understanding of her condition, and your appreciation of his feeling that he does not want to hurt her. In part, his attitude may be a grief reaction of denying her present condition. He wants to think of her as the strong, capable person she was and as yet cannot accept the fact that her illness has brought about a change.

Let God's grace be sufficient in these sometimes difficult days of the remaining years with your dear one.

Inquiries to Intensive Care are welcomed. Readers who feel the need of being in touch with Intensive Care are encouraged to write. Identities remain confidential. And though the identities of those performing this ministry have been kept confidential to this point, they are well qualified for the service they are rendering. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.—Editor.

## Crying for joy

By Eduardo Recio

Hurlingham Baptist Church in Buenos Aires had the layman, Gwin Moore, to lead in their revival from Friday until Sunday.

Personality of visitor: When I met Brother Moore at the Ezeiza International Airport, I saw a man full of vitality with a jovial spirit and ready to do great things for the Lord. Without a doubt, God had prepared things and sent us the person we needed. This was demonstrated through the messages which moved hearts, just as we had been praying for three years to be done

in our church. We believe we have made the first big step!

Meetings: The meetings were well attended. Saturday and Sunday we had to add more chairs, and some people had to remain standing. Our plans were changed for the next week, which was to have been a study for the church people; but instead we decided to have evangelistic meetings in our William Morris mission.

Decisions: In every meeting there were decisions for Christ, making a total of 41. Seventeen asked for baptism, and four dedicated themselves to full-time Christian service. Added to these blessings were church members who asked for forgiveness of their attitudes. Some went forward to confess these things, others stood where they were and publicly spoke out. As if this were not enough, a Sunday School teacher went forward to accept Christ as her personal Saviour—going forward, crying, unable to speak for a moment. All of us joined her in crying for joy.

Testimonies: A young man who had accepted Christ three months before, whose fiancée was totally against his doing this, came forward to say that he had had a tremendous conflict from the time he had given himself to the Lord. That night, he was able to get her to accompany him to the meeting, although she was still very much against his dedication to the Lord and wanted none of that for herself. He went forward that night to say that his conflict was over, that he could not exchange Christ in his life for anything, not even his fiancée. The young lady has not spoken to him or wanted to see him since. Daniel began classes for new members.

Two brothers who go to the National Military College for officers accepted the Lord. They are aware of the fact that to become president of the nation or even enter this college one must be a Roman Catholic. In spite of this, they continue to give their testimony.

Visits: On Wednesday of the second week a delegate of the municipality of Hurlingham, the highest authority of the city, was invited to pass forward to give greetings and did so, thanking the pastor for the invitation to attend.

The surprising thing about this was that we knew through the newspaper that he had an important meeting that

(Continued on page 5)



Harold and Joyce Watson, missionaries to the Philippines, are in the States on furlough (address: 919 Reaves, Jackson, Miss. 39204). He is a native of Brooklyn, Miss. She was born in Dallas, Tex.

Jonathan and LaHoma Hagleton, missionaries to the Windward Islands, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: c/o Wayne Dunn, Barbados Baptist College, St. Philip, Barbados). He is a native of Belzoni, Miss. She was born near California, Mo.

Jerry and Dorothy Hubbard, missionaries to Zambia, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Tom Sullivan, Star Route 529, Maurertown, Va. 22644). He was born in Caruthersville, Mo., and lived in Mississippi.

Paul and Vera Johnson, missionaries to the Philippines, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 104 S. Goforth St., Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086). He is a native of Bassfield, Miss.

Tony and Kathy Latham, missionaries to the Philippines, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 5683, Iligan City, Philippines). She is from Kosciusko.

Dorothea D. Lott, missionary to Brazil, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: 606 Graymont Ave., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401). She is a native of Sumrall, Miss.

Thomas and Mary McEachin, missionaries to Taiwan, resigned from missionary service May 31. They were stationed in Taipei, Taiwan, where he was assigned to music promotion. Born in Albany, Ga., he grew up in Miami, Fla. The former Mary Blair Parrish, she was born in Plant City, Fla., and lived in Laurel, Miss., and Miami, Fla., while growing up. They may be addressed at 1233 Stevens St., Smyrna, Ga. 30080.

Sheri Grober, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glendon D. Grober, missionaries to Brazil, married Bruce Burnett in Little Rock, Ark., on June 4. Bruce is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny N. Burnett, missionaries to Brazil. The bride's parents are in the States on furlough (address: 717 North Hughes, Little Rock, Ark. 72205). Glendon Grober was born in Vicksburg, Miss. The Burnetts are also in the States (address: Rt. 7, Box 364, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701).

Glading (Amite): July 3-8; Sunday at 11 a.m.; nights at 7:30; dinner on the ground Sunday; Kent Campbell, evangelist; Ray Campbell, directing the music; Charles Kirkfield, pastor. (Both preacher and singer are from Unity Baptist Church, Pike County.)

Fentress Baptist Church (Choctaw): July 10-15; 7:45 p.m. services only; E. B. Shivers of Ackerman, evangelist; music under direction of church music director, Gladney Worrell; H. L. Redd, pastor.

Big Springs (Lincoln): July 3-8; John Merck, evangelist; Frank Lewis, pastor; Mrs. Suzanne Lewis, music director; Mrs. Faye Smith, pianist; Mon-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., with dinner on the ground; Sunday afternoon service to be a patriotic program.

Sylvarena Baptist Church: June 26-July 1; evangelist: Billy Lee Foley, New Albany; singer: Bobby Shurden, full-time music evangelist, Drew; Robert Jackson, pastor.

Clear Branch Church, Florence: July 3-8; Mon-Fri. at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Greg Johnston, evangelist; Roger Lee, pastor.

## Pickerings gather in Jones, give piano to Korea seminary

Descendants of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Pickering, while gathered for a reunion at Hebron community in Jones County on Memorial Day weekend, presented a gift of \$1,500 to Major McDaniel, a member of the family, and music missionary in Korea, to buy a memorial piano. McDaniel said he will purchase the instrument in Korea for use at the Korea Baptist Seminary in Taejeon, where he teaches. He added that he can buy a good one in Korea for that amount.

Major and June McDaniel are returning to Korea this week, after being on furlough in Mississippi. They have served in Korea ten years. His mother, Mrs. M. C. McDaniel of Clinton, is one of the ten children of the R. W. Pickering. All ten were present at the reunion. All ten are over 70 years of age. They grew up in the Hebron community and in the Hebron Baptist church, which their father helped to organize and where he was a deacon.

The other nine children are Mrs. E. D. Estes, Jackson; Robert Pickering and Weldon Pickering, both deacons at Hebron; Ransom Pickering, Miami, Fla.; Mrs. J. O. McLaurin, Jones County, member at Hebron; Mrs. Edward Frost, Clinton; Mrs. Ruth Ford

Shelly Walker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Toby R. Walker, missionaries to Argentina, married David Romoser on May 27 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce A. Romoser, missionaries to Argentina.

Mike and Wanda Newton, missionaries to Korea, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 5, South Taegu, Korea 634).

Richard and Martha Beal, missionaries to Venezuela, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Apartado 159, Maracay 2101A, Venezuela). She is from Laurel, Miss.

Jerry and Lynn Barrett, missionaries to Hong Kong-Macao, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, 1114 Oxmoor Rd., Birmingham, Ala. 35209). The former Lynn Madison, she was born in Winston-Salem, N.C., and has lived in Clinton and Newton, Miss.

## Staff Changes

Jim McIntosh has accepted the position of youth and activities director at Sylvarena Baptist Church. McIntosh, a native of Raleigh, is a third year student at New Orleans Seminary, and is 1982-83 president of the Mississippi Club at the seminary.

Joe Royalty has accepted the pastorate at First Baptist Church, Eastabuchie. He has been serving as a full-time evangelist. Though he will not continue to give as much time to evangelism, he will still be available for meetings, he said. His address is Box 28, Eastabuchie, Miss. 39436 (phone 601/582-7030).

Ray Burks, a senior at Blue Mountain College, has accepted the position of director of youth ministry at the

Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo. He goes from First Baptist Church, Nesbit, where he served as minister of youth. Burks is a graduate of Amory High School and is scheduled to graduate from Blue Mountain in the fall of 1984. He began his work at Harrisburg on June 26.

Lucius Marion will begin June 26, as interim pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Cleveland. Marion is pastor emeritus of Clarksdale Baptist Church, Clarksdale. He has also served as pastor of First Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Charleston Heights, Charleston, S.C.; and First, Johnston, S.C. He has led revivals in many states and done mission preaching in Alaska and Italy.

David Joe Lee is the new pastor of Shubuta Baptist Church, Clarke County.

Paul Kirke, who has been a pastor or associate pastor in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas for 36 years, has resigned the pastorate of Pinelake Baptist Church, Vancleave, Miss. He plans now, he said, to minister through supply preaching, interim pastorates, and revival meetings. He lives at 2300 Evans St., Gautier, Miss. 39553 (phone 497-6074).

H. C. Bailey has resigned as pastor of Leaf River Baptist Church, Smith County, to accept the pastorate of Philipston Baptist Church, Sidon.

## Pray for MKs

July 2—Deborah E. Harbin, Brazil, USM

July 3—Mary Trott, Brazil, Miss. College (was graduated in May)

# Cashier's check from an angel?

By Herb Hollinger  
RENTON, Wash. (BP)—She wore white shoes, white stockings, white dress and had shoulder length blond hair. She was also tall, slim and young. Was she an angel?  
"To me, she was an angel—or whatever," Vasco Midkiff insists. Whether the young lady was an angel or not, she was certainly sent by God, she added. And she brought a cashier's check for \$1,750!

On Mother's Day Sunday at Coal Creek Baptist Church, Renton, Wash., only seven people showed up for Sunday School. They gathered in one class with discouragement written all over their faces. Without a pastor and only one deacon left, thoughts of quitting were surely appropriate for the small congregation.

"I just couldn't handle it," Vasco, one of the seven, said. "I left the class and went downstairs to finish running the bulletins. The machine wouldn't run and I could have kicked it. I wanted to cry—just cry. Then Delores

Burdick answered a knock at the door and hurriedly brought me what looked like a folded slip of paper. I looked up to see this young lady in the door."

Vasco opened the paper and found a cashier's check for \$1,750 made out to the church. "She just said it was for our general budget, was anonymous, and to put it in the offering plate," Burdick excitedly told Vasco.

They looked up and she was gone. They looked everywhere, but she just vanished, Vasco said.

The Coal Creek building is in a pasture-type setting not near any other buildings. It had been raining, the grass was wet, it was muddy. The class looked unsuccessfully for a sign as to where she disappeared.

But the surprises weren't over.

"Then people began arriving for church. Would you believe, 50 people, more visitors than members," Vasco said, a really "excel-

lent" Sunday would have been 25 in worship with 20 in Sunday school and "we have some really good prospects as a result of that service," she explained.

"The young lady, the check, the fantastic group for church—all of it, well, it just has to be from God," Vasco said. Her husband, chairman of the deacons at Coal Creek, had to be in Tennessee for a couple of months and Vasco was trying to fill in for him.

The check, drawn on a local bank, was good but no one could tell who had purchased it. No one had ever seen the young lady before, no one could explain why she had come, why she did not stay or identify herself. Maybe it is not important.

But what happened to Coal Creek Baptist Church on that Mother's Day Sunday morning is important. And nobody is questioning that God brought a new ray of hope and encouragement to this small congregation.

(Hollinger edits the Northwest Baptist Witness.)

## IRS rejects BJCPA request on public disclosure rule

By Larry Chesser  
WASHINGTON (BP)—The Internal Revenue Service has denied a Baptist agency's request to hold public hearings before issuing a new regulation requiring public disclosure of gifts and contributions to all non-profit organizations except churches and those church-related organizations considered by IRS to be vital to the religious mission of a church.

An IRS spokesman said the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs made the only request for hearings on the proposed regulation and that the new rule would take effect later this year without hearings.

Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel John W. Baker, said his agency sought to oppose the new regulation because concerns the IRS definition of which church-affiliated organizations qualify as "integrated auxiliaries" of a church might exclude agencies and institutions considered by Baptists and other denominations as vital to their religious mission.

"Regulations already in force," Baker said, "take away from churches the power of determining which of their agencies and affiliated organizations are integral to their religious mission and vest that determination in the IRS. This is an assumption of a religious role by the secular state role forbidden by the Constitution."

Under present regulations, church-affiliated organizations failing to meet the IRS integrated auxiliary test are required to file financial disclosure forms with the nation's tax collecting agency. The new regulation would make such statements public.

In written comments requesting public hearings, the Baptist Joint

Committee asked IRS to retreat from its current definition of integrated auxiliaries and in the absence of such action, exempt all church-related organizations from coverage under the new public disclosure requirement. (Chesser writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.)

## Six states provide officers for BPRA

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—A new slate of officers for the Baptist Public Relations Association was elected at the annual workshop in Memphis. The eight officers represent Baptist agencies in six states with three working at the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr., associate editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message, was selected president; Bonita Sparrow, promotion director of the Radio-Television Commission in Fort Worth, was elected program vice president, and Mike Creswell, associate editor of The Commission at the FMB, was picked as membership vice president.

Dan Euliss, assistant communications director for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, is the new newsletter editor. Virginia Flanagan, director of public relations and alumni at Campbellsville (Ky.) College, is secretary, and Tim Nicholas, associate editor of the Mississippi Baptist Record, is treasurer.

Bob Desbien, projects coordinator in communications at the FMB, is the awards chairman for this year and Ima Duke, information services coordinator for the FMB, was appointed to handle the BPRA's placement service that seeks to match qualified BPRA members with jobs in SBC national and state agencies.

## Pastor tries to stop jumper

NEW YORK (BP)—An Oklahoma pastor and his family, visiting New York enroute to the Southern Baptist Convention, made an unsuccessful attempt to save a young man who jumped from the Empire State Building.

Gary Richardson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Chelsea, Okla., his wife, Ruthie, and children, Mandy and Michael, were on the 86th floor observation deck when a young black man brushed by them.

They watched as the young man climbed past the barricades on the observation platform.

Richardson said he talked with the 20-year-old man for about three minutes, telling him he would help him solve his problems.

Richardson also said two guards tried to prevent the man from jumping.

"I just can't get over it," Richardson said. "He clung to the railing and looked me in the eye. Then he turned loose and fell..."

News accounts said the man plunged into a cab and died instantly.

## WMU honors

(Continued from page 1)  
lar Springs Drive, Meridian; McCool Baptist, McCool; First Baptist, Natchez; Mt. Vernon Baptist, Newton; First Baptist and Wade Baptist, Pascagoula; Spring Creek Baptist, Philadelphia; First Baptist and Pine Grove Baptist, Picayune; Strong River Baptist, Pinola; Liberty Baptist, Pontotoc; First Baptist, and Valley Park Baptist, Rolling Fork; and First Baptist, Runnelstown.

Other distinguished church WMUs were: Strayhorn Baptist, Sarah; Wayside Baptist, Scooby; First Baptist, Sledge; Oral Baptist, Sumrall; First Baptist and Harrisburg Baptist, Tupelo; Linwood Baptist and Neshoba Baptist, Union; Highland Baptist, Vicksburg; New Zion Baptist and Walnut Grove Baptist, Walnut Grove; and Woodville Baptist, Woodville.

Distinguished associations cited were: Calhoun, Chickasaw, Jones, Lee, Lincoln, Northwest, Pontotoc, Washington, Wayne, and Yalobusha (WMU).

## WMU Convention tapes available

Tapes of the WMU Convention, held March 21-22 at First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, are available for \$2 per tape. Order from WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

- Tape 1 Side 1 and side 2 — Theme interpretations by Mrs. Robert Fling.
- Tape 2 Side 1 - 4 dramas by The Lighthouse Players.
- Side 2 - Mini-concert by Major McDaniel.
- Tape 3 Side 1 - "State Missions Work in Idaho" by Edie Polnac.
- Side 2 - "At Work in Idaho" by Edie Polnac.
- Tape 4 Side 1 - "My Contact with The Indomitable Lady by Mrs. Marvin Bond; Commissioning Service; "We Went to the Rio De La Plata" by Mrs. Dent, Mrs. Durr, Mrs. McWilliams.
- Side 2 - "The California Connection"; "My Service on the Home Mission Board" by Mrs. Kimble Sutherland.
- Tape 5 Side 1 - "Carrying the Light in Brazil" by Mr. and Mrs. Glendon Grober.
- Side 2 - "Home Missions in California" by Mrs. Robert Staver.
- Tape 6 Side 1 - "Serving on Some of the Mission Fields of the World" by Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Beal, Mrs. Perkins; "State Missions Opportunities in Mississippi" by John McBride.
- Side 2 - "Mississippi Association at Work" - panel of directors of associational missions; Starteam recognition.

## Great shootout

LOS ANGELES (EP)—A volunteer team of 25 doctors and nurses from all over the United States gave two weeks as volunteers in Uganda working for African Enterprise. The purpose of their mercy mission is to inoculate thousands of Uganda children against measles, an epidemic disease that has been claiming the lives of thousands of boys and girls each year in that shattered country.

## Homecomings

Montgomery Baptist Church, Rt. 4, Summit: 90th anniversary; July 10; homecoming day; John Thomas, a former pastor, to speak at 11 a.m.; Ronnie McCall, a former music director, leading the singing; dinner on the grounds; afternoon service at 1:30 to feature special singing and a reading of the church history; Robert Mooney, pastor.

Corinth (Jasper): homecoming and old-fashioned day; July 10; beginning at 10 a.m.; lunch to be served at the church; singing in the afternoon to feature the AmberCrombies; Edd Holloman, pastor.

## Annie receipts up, but below needs

ATLANTA (BP)—Receipts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions are up, but below anticipated revenues, directors of the Home Mission Board were told during their June executive committee meeting.

President William G. Tanner said offering receipts, amounted to \$13,051,573.41 as of June 3, up 2.3 million or 21.2 percent, over receipts of June 1982. The increase however is slightly below anticipated receipts necessary to reach the \$25 million goal set for 1983.

In other action, directors elected two new staffers and appointed 50 persons to mission service.

Michael A. Pattillo was elected director of auxiliary services, effective June 27, 1983, and Thomas E. Sykes was named associate director of the church extension division, effective July 1, 1983.

The devil tries to shake truth by pretending to defend it.—Tertullian

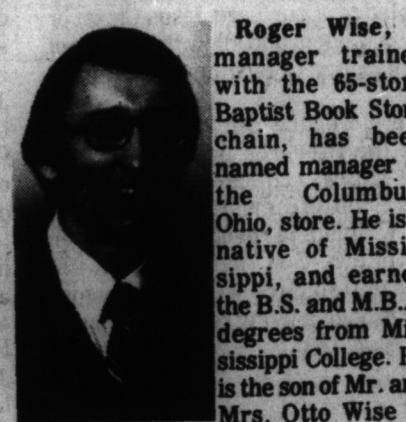
Every man has a right to his opinion, but his opinion may not be right.—Arthur H. Townsend

## Names in the News



MRS. C. O. "Hoss" BURRELL, right, was honored by Linn Baptist Church on homecoming day, June 19. MRS. FRANCES DOWNS, left, WMU director, presented to Mrs. Lady Burrell an award for her 47 years of faithful service.

Carolyn Madison, member of Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, and former long-time consultant, state Sunday School department, now retired, recently completed her 57th consecutive year as a Vacation Bible School teacher.



Wise

Mrs. George H. Gay, 71, died May 9, of a heart attack in Chipley, Fla. Her husband, formerly pastor in Mississippi, retired in 1973 after an 11-year pastorate at First Baptist Church, Chipley, Fla. Survivors besides her husband include a son, David, of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., and two grandchildren.

## Crying for joy

(Continued from page 4)  
would keep him from attending that night. The pastor accepted this as something of protocol; but when pastor Moore and the interpreter and I went up the steps to the church to begin the service, one of the leaders came out to tell us that the municipal delegate was seated on the first row! The Lord was working!

Thursday we changed the program again because the evangelistic meeting at the mission was such a blessing. The municipal delegate there excused himself from attending but sent three representatives in his place!

Interviews: Thursday morning we visited Mr. Bregante of the municipality. Brother Moore, with his Bible open, spoke to him about a personal relationship with Christ. Afterwards, he asked if he would like to repeat the prayer that he prayed. In the prayer he reminded him that he was a sinner, in need of repentance, and that he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour. When the prayer was finished, Bregante was very moved and thanked Moore for everything.

Immediately, we went to the town of William Morris to interview the municipal delegate there. Not only did he receive us cordially, but also brought together all of the judicial personnel to listen to the message. We were not pushed for time, so were able to talk at length with those who were interested. For that reason we had the representatives mentioned earlier in the meeting that night. We interviewed others, including the leader of a group of drug addicts, who returned to the church accompanied by two or three others who made professions of faith.

Thank you, Mississippi brethren, for helping us. Thank you, Argentine Baptist Mission, for collaborating to help bring this to reality. But over all we thank God for such a great blessing!

Eduardo Omar Recio is pastor of Hurlingham Church, Buenos Aires.

Obstacles are those frightening things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.



TWO DEACONS have been ordained recently at Linn Baptist Church, Daddsboro. They are GLEN JEFFCOAT, left, and WAYNE NICHOLS, right, Cornell Daughtry, First Church, Indianola, delivered the charge. Sonny Redwine, center, pastor, at Linn, preached the sermon. Granville Watson, Sunflower director of missions, was chairman of the council.

Mrs. Frank Tripp, 87, died June 15 in Montgomery, Ala. She was the widow of Frank Tripp, executive director of the Southern Baptist Hospital Commission, who died July 8, 1975. The funeral was June 18 at the chapel of Luke's Memory Funeral Home in Montgomery. Survivors include a daughter, Kuma (Mrs. Harvey Hedgepeth, Sr.) of Jackson, Miss.; three other daughters; and a son.

WACO, Texas (BP)—Baylor University President Herbert H. Reynolds suffered a mild heart attack Sunday, June 19, at his home. Reynolds, 53, was listed in "serious but stable" condition at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco until mid-morning June 23, when his condition was upgraded to "stable."

Beth Wildes, public information director for Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, has resigned. Wildes will do freelance editorial work for Oxnford House Books in Birmingham. She came to WMU in 1977 as editorial assistant for Contempo magazine. She became public information director in 1980.





MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH OF UNION, in front of the office at 800 Central St., Watauga Valley, are front row, from left: Guy Reedy, missions committee chairman; Mrs. Lucy Harrison; WMU; Mrs. Faye Ross; Mrs. Odell Sansom, secretary; and Leland Hurt, music. Back row, from left: Fred Lawrence, missions committee; B. C. Sellers, moderator; James Fancher, evangelism; Jim Lindsey, clerk; Carl Hayes, church training; and Buster Jackson, missions committee. Not pictured: Tommy White, vice-moderator; Jim Burrell, Sunday School; and Atlas Earl Tutor, Brotherhood.



The pastor and members of County Line Baptist Church of Union honored MRS. MINNIE ESTA SANSING on Sunday, June 5 for her service to the church. "Mama Sang," as she is known, has been an active member and has served as Sunday School teacher and Vacation Bible School teacher at the church for 57 years. Bobby Barfoot, pastor, is shown presenting Mrs. Sansing with a plaque. Also pictured are two of her four children, Mrs. Patsy McCraw and Mrs. Leta Thrash, both of Seaboard. Many of her former students, her friends, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, ate an old fashioned dinner-on-the-ground following the plaque presentation. (Photo by Jane Tannehill)



FIVE MISSISSIPPI WOMEN were among the 46 writers gathered from around the country in Birmingham, Ala., recently to receive training and assignments at the national headquarters of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC. Pictured at the writer's conference are (seated, l to r): MARGARET ANN CUMMINGS, Clinton; MARJORIE KELLY, Jackson; and DEBORAH BLOUNT, Corinth. Standing are MARTHA JEAN ALVIS (l) and EVELYN VAUGHN (r), of Jackson.

The achievements of GA's at First Baptist Church, Carthage, were recognized during May 15 services. From left, they are: Tiffany Phillips, Christie Allen, Mary Margaret Harkins, Amy Phillips, Tara Burr, Christie Hamer, Ashley Sanders, DeDe Wooten, and Melissa Jones. Acteen and RA leaders are Martha Prather, Brenda Johnston, Dot Mathis and Dot Hamilton.

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Corinth Baptist Church, Jasper County, reports that an average of 123 pupils attended its Vacation Bible School daily, with six conversions and a mission offering of \$159.20. Edd Holoman is pastor.

If you keep within your heart a green branch, I have heard there will come one day a singing bird.

## Bible Book

## Source, worth of wisdom

By Harry L. Lucenay, pastor, Temple, Hattiesburg

Proverbs 1:1-9:18

Francis Bacon stated that "the genius, the wit, and the spirit of a nation are discovered in its proverbs." The book of Proverbs should be a most interesting study of the Hebrew mind. Proverbs is a part of the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. This literature contains teachings and writings of the Israelite wise men which provides insight for youth and advanced study for elders. For some, wisdom first surfaces as a desired gift with Solomon's prayer (2 Chronicles 1:10) and remains somewhat confined in practice to Isaiah's description (Isaiah 11:2-4). However, a multitude of people contributed to the Hebrew wisdom teachings which provide guidance for all men.

The passages for study this week present a series of admonitions as well as two poems in which wisdom is personified and addresses mankind. It is important to note that the form in which wisdom approaches man in chapters 1-9 is not "it" but a personal "I." Wisdom then becomes a form of the personal presence of God with men.

**Proper respect (1:7)**—The untied theme of the book shows that wisdom is directly related to one's attitude toward God. Here it is clear that belief in God is necessary to understand truth and pursue knowledge. All wisdom has its origin in God and the man who fears God can tap his unlimited resources. The fear of God is repeatedly related to instruction in Deuteronomy and Leviticus 17-26. In Proverbs, the wisdom and fear of God are blended so that the fear of God colors the interpretation of all wisdom. This fear is a reverent, willing subordination to the Creator and Governor of the world who reveals himself to those who seek him.

**Proposed response (3:1-12)**—The personal relationship of the wise man to the pupil opens this discourse. This encourages obedience (vv. 1-4), reliance on God (vv. 5-8), sacrificial devotion to God (vv. 9-10), and submission to the fatherly discipline of God (vv. 11, 12). The heart of Hebrew faith and practice is seen in verse 3 where a firm reliability to the unity and solidarity between the parties of the covenant relationship is encouraged.

Verses 5-12 present four admonitions of the Hebrew faith. (1) Trust in the Lord with all thine heart. Without this reliance on or confidence in God, it is impossible to carry out any of the

precepts of religion; (2) Humility is the way to health (vv. 7-8). A proud spirit leads to the prohibited self-dependence, and is inconsistent with "the fear of the Lord." (3) One must recognize his responsibility (9, 10). The duty of giving tithes is older than Mosaic law. An insertion in The Septuagint indicates God is not honored by gifts arising from unlawful gain. Man is to give a day's work for a day's pay and return the tithe to God; (4) Accept and appreciate God's discipline (vv. 11-12). God's correction in man's life reveals God's love for man. Man must not faint under it, or brood over it until his spirit sinks in despair. Man will never encounter adversity which is beyond the repair of God.

**Pleasant rewards (3:13-18)**—The hymnic style of these verses reveal another personification of wisdom. Wisdom is presented as a goddess who holds symbols of life, wealth, and honor; who is a good guide along with pleasant paths; and who stands forth as a tree of life (the traditional figure for health and long life derived from Genesis 2:9, 3:22). The pleasant rewards symbolized in these verses are illustrated throughout scripture.

**Personal responsibility (8:35-36)**—Every man is personally wooed by wisdom. The personified virtue urges men to heed her message and keep her ways. In the Living Word wisdom has her self-existence; in him she has her personification, her justification, and her truth. Men may choose to walk in wisdom and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ or to shun wisdom and allow the cancer of complacency to terminate their existence.

Therefore, the introductory lesson from the Proverbs presents several basic truths. (1) Those who want to understand life must know God and walk with him in reverence. (2) When one follows God, he discovers life above the ordinary. (3) Real life comes only through a living relationship with the Living God.

Plato, three hundred years before Christ, predicted that if ever the truly good man were to appear, the man who would tell the truth, he would have his eyes gouged out and in the end be crucified. That risk was once taken, in its fullest measure. The Man appeared. He told the world the truth—about itself—and even made the preposterous claim: "I am the Truth." As Plato foresaw, that Man was crucified.—Elizabeth Elliot

## Abandoned children in Brazil to receive help from Baptists

SAO PAULO, Brazil (BP)—Southern Baptists will spend about \$600,000 over the next three years to aid some of the thousands of abandoned children in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The first appropriation of \$340,000 was released the end of May.

An estimated 600,000 children and youths comb the streets of Brazil's largest city in search of food and shelter. Some maintain contact with poor parents or relatives who can't support them, but many are sucked into the street world of violence, crime, and exploitation. The hunger and relief money will provide food and basic operating ex-

penses for three children's homes run by Brazilian Baptists in and around Sao Paulo.

That help, plus funding for building improvements, will enable the homes to use other resources to increase their shelter capacity from 215 to 350 children, begin job training programs, and employ a development officer to raise funds.

Baptists in Sao Paulo have agreed to provide more trained social workers and at least one chaplain. Many of the children are led to faith in Christ and baptized in local Baptist churches before they leave the homes.

## Uniform

## Zeal without wisdom

By Clarence H. Cutrell, Jackson

Judges 11:1-12:7

As we continue the study of minor characters in the history of Israel, we are looking into an almost perfect mirror of the repetitive cycle characteristic of every generation of Christian groups and nations. The people rebel, God punishes through some enemy nation, the people repent, and God raises up some leader to deliver his people.

On this occasion that leader is Jephthah, a controversial character. Some feel that there has never been a finer or nobler person, while others think of him as a cruel, barbaric individual who believed in and practiced human sacrifice. What do we learn in this lesson about Jephthah, and through him, about our leaders today?

1. He had a poor beginning but overcame it. He was the son of Gilead but his mother was a prostitute. This is a blight of such significance that weaker characters are often totally destroyed by it. Growing up in a loveless world they early develop feelings of hostility, hate, and vengeance against all of society. Jephthah, however, although he surrounded himself with a band of pillagers, always directed his attacks not against Gilead, but against the enemies of Israel. Likewise, leaders today should not be judged solely on the basis of a questionable past, but upon how they live their lives today.

2. He was scorned and driven away by his own family, but blessed by his God. His father's sons by the legal wife were fearful that Jephthah would claim a part in his father's heritage and so ran him out of his home and country. In spite of such ill-treatment, Jephthah maintained, by the help of God, a good attitude toward the Gileadites. Thus, when Gilead, a part of the tribe of Manasseh, after 18 years of harassment by the Ammonites, called upon this outcast to deliver them, he rose above petty family quarrels and accepted the role of captain of the army and head of the tribe of Gilead. He was recognized as a man whom Jehovah had blessed with the attributes of a great warrior and the wisdom of a good leader. One of Jephthah's first acts as the chosen deliverer of Gilead was to go "before the Lord at Mizpah," a sanctuary of Jehovah in Gilead, and, thus, mark himself as a man of faith and trust in God.

Some of the greatest leaders of our nation have not come up through the ranks of political life, although this in itself may be neither good nor bad. Some have come from rather unpre-

tentious beginnings such as a log cabin, and a haberdashery where Mr. Truman spent some of his early days. And some have been found in most unlikely places such as a wheelchair. Faulty beginnings or handicaps may not always be a cursing be, but merely the proving ground of characters of great strength and integrity.

3. He had a meritorious faith but weakened it by his associations with heathen worship. This brings us to the tragic aspect of the life of this otherwise great leader. When Jephthah went before Jehovah to gain his blessings upon the efforts to overthrow the Ammonites, he did a foolish thing. He made a vow to his God that in return for victory over his enemies he would sacrifice as a burnt offering "whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me." After routing the Ammonites he returned home the vanquishing hero. But all of his richly deserved feelings of joy and animation were dashed when the first person to meet him out of his house was his lovely young daughter, his only child. A sudden chill took a crushing grip upon his heart as he realized that this daughter was to be the victim of his vow—one of such solemnity that he did not feel that he could renege on it. And as the story is related in Judges the assumption is that the child was offered up as a burnt offering, and the rest of Jephthah's life was shadowed by this tragedy.

It is strange that a man who knew so well the history of Israel, as proven in his diplomatic relations with the Ammonites, would not also know such passages as Deut. 10:12 and Deut. 12:29-31 (q.v.). From these passages he would have known that God did not require such a vow. And we can be assured that Jephthah's victory did not come on the strength of that vow, but because Jephthah was God's chosen instrument to bring deliverance to Israel. It would seem, therefore, that his proximity to the religious practices of heathen nations, particularly in the area of human sacrifice, had created a blind spot in his faith toward God and his knowledge of God's will.

So with our leaders today. Wise in many ways, some are totally bereft of wisdom with regards to God's word and will. Yet these persons are called upon almost daily to make decisions that are laden with the potential of almost terrifying results to multitudes of people. Some of them do not even know our Lord. How earnest and unending should be our prayers for them. And as we come to observe once again the

## Life and Work

## Who am I?

By Larry W. Fields, pastor, Harrisburg, Tupelo

Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:3-8

All too often in this modern age, with rapid change and increased technological advancement, man begins to feel overwhelmed and insignificant. He suffers from what is commonly called "an identity crisis." He does not have the answer to such questions as, Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?

This is not a new idea. For centuries, theologians, philosophers and other learned men have struggled to answer the question, "What is man?"

All human ideas and secular philosophies will fall short and prove inadequate. Only the Bible teaches that man was the crowning act of God's creation and that he was made in the image of God. The writer of Genesis and the psalmist, inspired by God hundreds of years ago, help us solve our identity crisis.

**(I) Acknowledge the fact that God is the creator of all things.**

One basic premise in Old Testament theology was that God is the creator of all things. There was a divine purpose and order in creation. This world was no cosmic accident. The origin of all things find their source in God.

Psalm 8 is a hymn of praise, possibly used in an outdoor worship service on a star-filled night. It is believed that verses 1-2 and 9 were sung by the choir and that verses 3-8 were the solo part. It has been called the symphony of the heavens as the worshippers acknowledged the revelation of God through nature.

We have hymns such as, "This is My Father's World," "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heaven," and "God of Our Fathers," which convey the same thought.

The psalmist obviously had Genesis 1:1-2:3 in mind when he penned this psalm about God's majestic creation.

**(II) Appreciate the fact that God is involved in our lives.**

In the same way that the earth and the universe were no accident, neither are we an accident. A careful reading of Genesis 1:1-2:3 indicates that God was preparing everything and making sure that all was perfect for his ultimate creation, the creation of man.

birthday of our nation, let us offer a prayer of deep thanksgiving for those freedoms which our forefathers have bequeathed us and a sincere prayer that all the peoples of our world may be delivered from every form of tyranny, that they, too, may be "free" people.

## Devotional

## What is prayer?

By Kate Durham Morgan

What is prayer? Is it a printed copy handed to you to read in unison? It could be if each person really felt those expressed sentiments and wished sincerely to have them become a reality.

Prayer really is talking to God in your own words, about your own needs, asking forgiveness for things not right in your life, asking for guidance and strength to live right. Thanking God for blessings he has given you.

He is eager to talk to you. He even answers his children before they call. When we were on a trip to Quitman from Meridian about dusk, our car was suddenly upon a dead car, without any lights, standing in our traffic lane. Swerving our car to miss the dead car, we found ourselves in the right of way of the road, several feet below the road bed. And I heard myself praying aloud as we bounced to a stop, "O Lord, save us." Then the realization came to me he had already saved us even before I asked. Then it was time to say, "Thank you, Lord."

I was not like the small boy who had disobeyed and climbed onto the roof of the house. While he was slipping down until his feet were hanging off he prayed, "O Lord, save me." Then a roofing nail hung his Levis and instead of saying, "Thank you, God, for saving me," he said "Never mind, Lord, a nail's done hung me." Two small boys had heard all of their lives how good their grandfather was and how close he lived to the Lord. They decided they would see how long he prayed, what he prayed about, and if he knelt to pray; so they went early to the old man's room and hid underneath his bed. And his usual time he came in to retire. Four eyes were watching every move.

He sat on the edge of the bed, pulling off his shoes and socks, and placed them neatly by the bed. Standing up he slipped his suspenders off his shoulders, letting his trousers slip off. These he placed across the back of a chair. Next his shirt in orderly fashion. Then removing his undergarments he dressed in blue pajamas. Now, thought the boys, will begin the long prayer. Expecting him to kneel, the boys slipped further back under the bed.

To their amazement and surprise, he did not kneel, but sat on the side of the bed. Then, picking up one foot and then the other, their grandfather lay back on the bed, gently pulling up the covers.

Wasn't he going to pray? While they waited they heard him say, "Goodnight, dear friend Jesus. Hasn't it been a lovely day you and I have shared? Thank you for being so close all day. Now I'm going to sleep and we will see each other in the morning, either at my house or yours. It doesn't really matter which."

Then the room was silent briefly—until the gentle breathing of a sound sleeper assured the boys that they could leave now without detection.

Kate Durham Morgan (Mrs. W. C.) is a member of Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson.

When the psalmist considers the heavens (Psalm 8:3-4a) he is overwhelmed and feels like an infinitesimal speck standing below. "What is man?" he asks, "that God is mindful of such a puny being?"

He moves from a sense of humility to a litany of praise (Psalm 8:4b-9) as he appreciates the fact God crowned man with glory and honor.

God created man in his spiritual image (Genesis 1:26-27). He has a spiritual quality which the animals do not possess. Compared to nature, man may feel insignificant, but in the eyes of God, he is very important. He is kin to God and kin to God. He is a man of earth and yet has the potential to have fellowship with God.

Each person should feel that I am a person of worth and value, created in the image of God.

**(III) Accept the fact that he has given us a responsibility.**

After God created man, he gave him both a privilege and a responsibility (Genesis 1:26, 28; Psalm 8:6-8). He made man his supreme creation in his own image and then turned creation over to man. We are to have dominion over the created order.

Many times we have failed in this responsibility as we have polluted and destroyed parts of the earth. One congressman has written, "Unless drastic changes take place, I believe there is a grave danger that mankind will make this planet uninhabitable."

Yet many scientists today are anxious that their work be used to serve mankind's good, not its destruction. We have no right to abuse God's creation. He gave us dominion, not to destroy it but to enlarge on it.

Man's greatest responsibility goes beyond the environment and the natural resources. We are to share the Good News (Matthew 28:19-20) of Jesus Christ with the nations of the world. The gospel is the ultimate solution to the identity crisis.

## Wedding van blues

HOUSTON (EP)—The Rev. Charlie Neal is praying the law—and the Lord—abide with him during his June trial. He is charged with illegally conducting a marriage chapel in the back of a van parked on a public street. But Neal said he's got faith. "I feel a whole lot better," he said. "Now we can find out what the law is and abide by it."

Neal, who is free on bond wants to challenge an ordinance officials say prohibits him from operating his rolling "Abiding Love Wedding Chapel."





MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL for Yalobusha Baptist Association, in front of the office at 800 Central St., Water Valley, are front row, from left: Guy Reedy, missions committee chairman; Mrs. Lucy Harrison; WMU; Mrs. Faye Ross, Mrs. Odell Sansom, secretary; and Leland Hurt, music. Back row, from left: Fred Lawrence, missions committee; B. C. Sellers, moderator; James Fancher, evangelism; Jim Lindsey, clerk; Carl Hayes, church training; and Buster Jackson, missions committee. Not pictured: Tommy White, vice-moderator; Jim Burrell, Sunday School; and Atlas Earl Tutor, Brotherhood.



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Plato, three hundred years before Christ, predicted that if ever the truly good man were to appear, the man who would tell the truth, he would have his eyes gouged out and in the end be crucified. That risk was once taken, in its fullest measure. The Man appeared. He told the world the truth—about itself—and even made the preposterous claim: "I am the Truth." As Plato foresaw, that Man was crucified.—Elisabeth Elliot

Union Baptist Church, Kemper County, Vacation Bible School saw a puppet presentation each evening, June 13-17. Princess Gwendolyn was played by Betty Pace, and Lollipop Dragon was played by Todd Berry. Attendance in the VBS averaged 30, and 24 had perfect attendance. The middle class taught by Mrs. Zona Thompson had perfect attendance. At commencement, students presented a musical "A Promise is a Promise," with Rainbow Woman and Billy played by Angela Byrd and Chad Thompson. The music was directed by Pam Hurt. Joyce Ivey was VBS director; Sidney Thompson is the pastor.

SAO PAULO, Brazil (BP)—Southern Baptists will spend about \$680,000 over the next three years to aid some of the thousands of abandoned children in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The first appropriation of \$340,000 was released the end of May. An estimated 600,000 children and youths comb the streets of Brazil's largest city in search of food and shelter. Some maintain contact with poor parents or relatives who can't support them, but many are sucked into the street world of violence, crime, and exploitation.

The hunger and relief money will provide food and basic operating ex-

## Uniform

By Clarence H. Cutrell, Jackson Judges 11:1-12:7

As we continue the study of minor characters in the history of Israel, we are looking into an almost perfect mirror of the repetitive cycle characteristic of every generation of Christian groups and nations. The people rebel, God punishes through some enemy nation, the people repent, and God raises up some leader to deliver his people.

On this occasion that leader is Jephthah, a controversial character. Some feel that there has never been a finer or nobler person, while others think of him as a cruel, barbaric individual who believed in and practiced human sacrifice. What do we learn in this lesson about Jephthah, and through him, about our leaders today?

1. He had a poor beginning but overcame it. He was the son of Gilead but his mother was a prostitute. This is a blight of such significance that weaker characters are often totally destroyed by it. Growing up in a loveless world they early develop feelings of hostility, hate, and vengeance against all of society. Jephthah, however, although he surrounded himself with a band of pillagers, always directed his attacks not against Gilead, but against the enemies of Israel. Likewise, leaders today should not be judged solely on the basis of a questionable past, but upon how they live their lives today.

2. He was scorned and driven away by his own family, but blessed by his God. His father's sons by the legal wife were fearful that Jephthah would claim a part in his father's heritage and so ran him out of his home and country. In spite of such ill-treatment, Jephthah maintained, by the help of God, a good attitude toward the Gileadites. Thus, when Gilead, a part of the tribe of Manasseh, after 18 years of harassment by the Ammonites, called upon this outcast to deliver them, he rose above petty family quarrels and accepted the role of captain of the army and head of the tribe of Gilead. He was recognized as a man whom Jehovah had blessed with the attributes of a great warrior and the wisdom of a good leader. One of Jephthah's first acts as the chosen deliverer of Gilead was to go "before the Lord at Mizpah," a sanctuary of Jehovah in Gilead, and, thus, mark himself as a man of faith and trust in God.

Some of the greatest leaders of our nation have not come up through the ranks of political life, although this in itself may be neither good nor bad. Some have come from rather unpre-

penses for three children's homes run by Brazilian Baptists in and around Sao Paulo.

That help, plus funding for building improvements, will enable the homes to use other resources to increase their shelter capacity from 215 to 350 children, begin job training programs, and employ a development officer to raise funds.

Baptists in Sao Paulo have agreed to provide more trained social workers and at least one chaplain. Many of the children are led to faith in Christ and baptized in local Baptist churches before they leave the homes.

## Life and Work

tentious beginnings such as a log cabin, and a haberdashery where Mr. Truman spent some of his early days. And some have been found in most unlikely places such as a wheelchair. Faulty beginnings or handicaps may not always be a cursing be, but merely the proving ground of characters of great strength and integrity.

3. He had a meritorious faith but weakened it by his associations with heathen worship. This brings us to the tragic aspect of the life of this otherwise great leader. When Jephthah went before Jehovah to gain his blessings upon the efforts to overthrow the Ammonites, he did a foolish thing. He made a vow to his God that in return for victory over his enemies he would sacrifice as a burnt offering "whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me." After routing the Ammonites he returned home the vanquishing hero. But all of his richly deserved feelings of joy and animation were dashed when the first person to meet him out of his house was his lovely young daughter, his only child. A sudden chill took a crushing grip upon his heart as he realized that this daughter was to be the victim of his vow—one of such solemnity that he did not feel that he could renege on it. And as the story is related in Judges the assumption is that the child was offered up as a burnt offering, and the rest of Jephthah's life was shadowed by this tragedy.

It is strange that a man who knew so well the history of Israel, as proven in his diplomatic relations with the Ammonites, would not also know such passages as Deut. 10:12 and Deut. 12:29-31 (q.v.). From these passages he would have known that God did not require such a vow. And we can be assured that Jephthah's victory did not come on the strength of that vow, but because Jephthah was God's chosen instrument to bring deliverance to Israel. It would seem, therefore, that his proximity to the religious practices of heathen nations, particularly in the area of human sacrifice, had created a blind spot in his faith toward God and his knowledge of God's will.

So with our leaders today. Wise in many ways, some are totally bereft of wisdom with regards to God's word and will. Yet these persons are called upon almost daily to make decisions that are laden with the potential of almost terrifying results to multitudes of people. Some of them do not even know our Lord. How earnest and unending should be our prayers for them. And as we come to observe once again the



### \$4,000 pledged at Scott banquet

One hundred thirty-seven church leaders and pastors of Scott County Baptist Association met at Forest Baptist Dining Hall May 2 for an associational building leadership banquet. The banquet was to challenge the church leaders to share with others in their churches plans and needs for an associational building, and to make monetary contributions and pledges. Julius Thompson, a Scott County native, consultant, Stewardship department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, spoke. A leadership share certificate plan was presented. Leadership shares may be purchased in denominations of \$100.00, \$500.00, \$1,000.00, and \$1,500.00. Over \$4,000.00 was given or pledged that evening. The association now has 27 of 37 churches supporting the building program by some financial means. Holmes H. Carlisle is director of missions; J. Courtney Selvy is Building Committee chairman.

## Devotional

### What is prayer?

By Kate Durham Morgan

What is prayer? Is it a printed copy handed to you to read in unison? It could be if each person really felt those expressed sentiments and wished sincerely to have them become a reality.

Prayer really is talking to God in your own words, about your own needs, asking forgiveness for things not right in your life, asking for guidance and strength to live right. Thanking God for blessings he has given you.

He is eager to talk to you. He even answers his children before they call. When we were on a trip to Quitman from Meridian about dusk, our car was suddenly upon a dead car, without any lights, standing in our traffic lane. Swerving our car to miss the dead car, we found ourselves in the right of way of the road, several feet below the road bed. And I heard myself praying aloud as we bounced to a stop, "O Lord, save us."

Then the realization came to me he had already saved us even before I asked. Then it was time to say, "Thank you, Lord."

I was not like the small boy who had disobeyed and climbed onto the roof of the house. While he was slipping down until his feet were hanging off he prayed, "O Lord, save me." Then a roofing nail hung his Levis and instead of saying, "Thank you, God, for saving me," he said "Never mind, Lord, a nail's done hung me."

Two small boys had heard all of their lives how good their grandfather was and how close he lived to the Lord. They decided they would see how long he prayed, what he prayed about, and if he knelt to pray; so they went early to the old man's room and hid underneath his bed. And his usual time he came in to retire. Four eyes were watching every move.

He sat on the edge of the bed, pulling off his shoes and socks, and placed them neatly by the bed. Standing up he slipped his suspenders off his shoulders, letting his trousers slip off. These he placed across the back of a chair. Next his shirt in orderly fashion. Then removing his undergarments he dressed in blue pajamas. Now, thought the boys, will begin the long prayer. Expecting him to kneel, the boys slipped further back under the bed.

To their amazement and surprise, he did not kneel, but sat on the side of the bed. Then, picking up one foot and then the other, their grandfather lay back on the bed, gently pulling up the covers.

Wasn't he going to pray? While they waited they heard him say, "Goodnight, dear friend Jesus. Hasn't it been a lovely day you and I have shared? Thank you for being so close all day. Now I'm going to sleep and we will see each other in the morning, either at my house or yours. It doesn't really matter which."

Then the room was silent briefly—until the gentle breathing of a sound sleeper assured the boys that they could leave now without detection.

Kate Durham Morgan (Mrs. W. C.) is a member of Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson.

## Who am I?

By Larry W. Fields, pastor, Harrisburg, Tupelo

Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:3-8

All too often in this modern age, with rapid change and increased technological advancement, man begins to feel overwhelmed and insignificant. He suffers from what is commonly called "an identity crisis." He does not have the answer to such questions as, Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?

This is not a new idea. For centuries, theologians, philosophers and other learned men have struggled to answer the question, "What is man?"

All human ideas and secular philosophies will fall short and prove inadequate. Only the Bible teaches that man was the crowning act of God's creation and that he was made in the image of God. The writer of Genesis and the psalmist, inspired by God hundreds of years ago, help us solve our identity crisis.

(I) Acknowledge the fact that God is the creator of all things.

One basic premise in Old Testament theology was that God is the creator of all things. There was a divine purpose and order in creation. This world was no cosmic accident. The origin of all things find their source in God.

Psalm 8 is a hymn of praise, possibly used in an outdoor worship service on a star-filled night. It is believed that verses 1-2 and 9 were sung by the choir and that verses 3-8 were the solo part. It has been called the symphony of the heavens as the worshippers acknowledged the revelation of God through nature.

We have hymns such as, "This is My Father's World," "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heaven," and "God of Our Fathers," which convey the same thought.

The psalmist obviously had Genesis 1:1-2:3 in mind when he penned this psalm about God's majestic creation. (II) Appreciate the fact that God is involved in our lives.

In the same way that the earth and the universe were no accident, neither are we an accident. A careful reading of Genesis 1:1-2:3 indicates that God was preparing everything and making sure that all was perfect for his ultimate creation, the creation of man.

birthday of our nation, let us offer a prayer of deep thanksgiving for those freedoms which our forefathers have bequeathed us and a sincere prayer that all the peoples of our world may be delivered from every form of tyranny, that they, too, may be "free" people.

When the psalmist considers the heavens (Psalm 8:3-4a) he is overwhelmed and feels like an infinitesimal speck standing below. "What is man?" he asks, "that God is mindful of such a puny being?"

He moves from a sense of humility to a litany of praise (Psalm 8:4b-9) as he appreciates the fact God crowned man with glory and honor.

God created man in his spiritual image (Genesis 1:26-27). He has a spiritual quality which the animals do not possess. Compared to nature, man may feel insignificant, but in the eyes of God, he is very important. He is kin to God and kin to clod. He is a man of earth and yet has the potential to have fellowship with God.

Each person should feel that I am a person of worth and value, created in the image of God.

(III) Accept the fact that he has given us a responsibility.

After God created man, he gave him both a privilege and a responsibility (Genesis 1:26, 28; Psalm 8:6-8). He made man his supreme creation in his own image and then turned creation over to man. We are to have dominion over the created order.

Many times we have failed in this responsibility as we have polluted and destroyed parts of the earth. One congressman has written, "Unless drastic changes take place, I believe there is a grave danger that mankind will make this planet uninhabitable."

Yet many scientists today are anxious that their work be used to serve mankind's good, not its destruction. We have no right to abuse God's creation. He gave us dominion, not to destroy it but to enlarge on it.

Man's greatest responsibility goes beyond the environment and the natural resources. We are to share the Good News (Matthew 28:19-20) of Jesus Christ with the nations of the world. The gospel is the ultimate solution to the identity crisis.

## Wedding van blues

HOUSTON (EP)—The Rev. Charlie Neal is praying the law—and the Lord—abide with him during his June trial. He is charged with illegally conducting a marriage chapel in the back of a van parked on a public street. But Neal said he's got faith. "I feel a whole lot better," he said. "Now we can find out what the law is and abide by it."

Neal, who is free on bond wants to challenge an ordinance officials say prohibits him from operating his rolling "Abiding Love Wedding Chapel."